

# Bi-Weekly Update

## Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command

January 30, 2009

### ★ ★ Command Corner ★ ★

One of the many events surrounding the presidential inauguration last week was the Commander in Chief's Ball, held Tuesday, specifically for service members. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and military spouses came together for what was President Barack Obama's first address to a large military audience as president. In his remarks, he restated one of the priorities he and the First Lady have already thrown themselves into—Military Families.

President Obama said service and sacrifice are not limited to those in uniform. "Every time a service member deploys, there is an empty seat at the table back home -- and a Family that has to bear an extra burden," the president said. "That's why Michelle has spent so much time in the last few months working with our military Families. Tonight, we don't just salute our troops, we salute the military Family that has earned the respect of a grateful nation." His remarks signal a clear and positive message our new commander in chief supports the military, and military Families in particular.

On a related note, the annual Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference occurred this week. The AFAP conference involves representatives from installations around the world who come together to identify the most pressing issues the Army can address to improve the standard of living for Soldiers, retirees, DA civilian employees and their Families. This year's conference also marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AFAP program and celebrated all AFAP has done for the Army over the past 25 years. The AFAP program is undoubtedly a major success story, boasting achievements that include the recent increase in the number of new and renovated child care facilities, programs like Army Family Team Building and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers that were born from AFAP, and many other programs that have helped Army leaders address the needs of the TOTAL Army Family.

The Chief of Staff of the Army and the Secretary of the Army both attended sessions during the week, demonstrating their continued commitment to our Soldiers and Families. As the needs and priorities of our Soldiers and Families evolve, the AFAP process is a proven way to ensure Army leadership is "in tune." It takes commitment from the volunteers, and we appreciate all the effort they put into this process. If you're not involved with AFAP, visit your installation ACS office and ask how you can voice your concerns and ideas for change/improvement in how we take care of our own.

In the meantime, stay tuned for the new top issues that will be released shortly after the conference.

Thank you for all you do for Soldiers and Families everyday.

"MWR for All Your Life"

MG John A. Macdonald  
Commanding General  
Family and MWR Command

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## Hot Topics

### DeCA Recognizes Moms

The Defense Commissary Agency would like to lavish some well-deserved attention on the military mom. Moms are the heartbeat of our military Families -- whether they are holding down the home front or in uniform deployed down range. Every day in commissaries around the world, mothers are shopping for their Families. They often pay attention to everyone but themselves. From January through Mother's Day in May, DeCA will focus special attention on military moms and show them how much they mean to us. With its "Every Day is Mom's Day at Your Commissary" initiative, DeCA plans to pamper moms with a variety of specially priced health and beauty care products set aside just for them. It's the commissary's way of saying "thank you" to a customer demographic that represents about 80 percent of daily commissary shoppers.

Beginning in early January, commissaries will roll out the red carpet for mothers in all segments of the military community. Each store will highlight a special shopping area for military moms, a place where they can purchase discounted products to treat themselves or where their husbands and children can do the honors. 'Every Day is Mom's Day' seeks to put our military moms first, honoring the sacrifices they make every day. Commissary customers can expect to see banners, posters, and shelf signs that point the way toward product displays designed especially for mom. They will also see product giveaways and demonstrations as well as an emphasis on women's health articles posted on the DeCA Web site, <http://www.commissaries.com>, in the Ask the Dietitian forum.

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### Update on Roof Failure at Child Development Center, Fort Carson

On Dec. 24, 2008, the roof on one of three temporary Child Development Centers (CDCs) at Fort Carson, CO, lifted off the building due to high winds. While there was no danger to the occupants, the building sustained major damages. FMWRC has engaged the contractor to replace the roof and to retrofit the structural connections for the roofs in all the temporary CDCs constructed to date.

An update on progress for this action follows:

- Fort Carson: Two undamaged CDCs have been retrofitted with the additional bracing; replacement of the new roof on the damaged CDC is in process, currently 60 percent complete.

- Fort Lewis: Retrofit to two CDCs is in process, currently 40 percent and 75 percent complete.
- Fort Hood, Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, and Fort Drum (two CDCs) are in process and on schedule for completion by Feb. 3, 2009.
- Retrofit to existing CDC's at Fort Campbell (three CDCs), Fort Riley (two CDCs), and Fort Bliss (three CDCs) are complete.

All work performed by the contractor for structural modifications is at no cost to the Army. FMWRC has separately contracted with a structural engineer to investigate the cause of the failure and perform a field inspection at Fort Carson. FMWRC is also conducting a comprehensive structural design analysis of all temporary and permanent CDCs to ensure they meet or exceed design criteria for wind, snow and seismic conditions for the regions where they are located and will begin a physical inspection of each facility constructed to date (both temporary and permanent), to confirm they meet the design requirements. These inspections are scheduled to begin on or about the week of Feb. 4, 2009.

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## Family Programs

### **Army Community Service (ACS) Mobilization and Deployment Program Managers' Course**

The ACS Mobilization and Deployment Program Managers' Course is Feb. 2-6, 2009 at the FMWRC Training Academy, Alexandria, VA. Twenty-six ACS Mobilization and Deployment program managers and assistants are scheduled to attend.

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### **Soldier, Civilian, and Family Indicators Dashboard Review**

A representative from FMWRC Family Programs attended the Department of the Army, G-1 Human Resources Policy Directorate (HRPD) review regarding the Soldier, Civilian, and Families (SCF) Indicators Dashboard Jan.16, 2009. The Secretary of the Army approved the G-1 recommended concept and methodology for SCF Indicators March 25, 2008. The dashboard is a comprehensive system of metrics that identifies potential stress indicators, serves as a standardized, "single-source" for the Army staff on SCF Indicators, and supports analysis to determine underlying causes impacting Soldiers and Army Families. The Dashboard will display the five most recent quarters of data on 24 separate indicators. The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY09 data and subjective comments are due Jan. 30, 2009. Future versions of the Dashboard will be web-based. The FMWRC Family Programs Family Advocacy will report Domestic Violence data.

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### **Senior Spouse Leadership Seminar (SSLS)**

The Army Family Team Building (AFTB) SSLS was held January 27-29, 2009, at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, PA. The SSLS is conducted annually for spouses of Active Duty Soldiers attending the Army War College and spouses of Reserve Component Soldiers (ARNG and USAR) of equivalent rank. The goal of the Seminar is to provide training for the "diverse" Army Spouse Leadership that addresses their roles as program advisors and mentors. Students are also provided general information about Army Family Programs to keep them abreast of new initiatives and garner their support. National Guard and Army Reserve attendees are funded by the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.

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### **Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Throughout 2009, AFAP conferences at garrisons and mid-level commands across the Army will commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the program. The anniversary celebration was a highlight at the Headquarters, Department of the Army AFAP Conference in Alexandria, VA, January 26-30, 2009. The celebration began with remarks by the Secretary of the Army at the opening session, and a reception highlighted the 25 years of success and the program sponsors. The Chief of Staff of the Army commended the accomplishments of the past 25 years during the Closing Session. A formal Army-wide celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will take place in April 2009, during National Volunteer Week.

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## **Child, Youth & School Services**

### **"Sesame Rooms" to be Created for Children of Deployed, Wounded, and Transitioning Warriors**

Nine garrisons will soon have *Sesame Street* environments in Army Child, Youth & School Services "Kids on Site" programs, located where Families seek support in Soldier & Family Assistance Centers, Hospital Child Care, Family Readiness Group Centers, and Parent/Child Co-Ops. Sesame Workshop, the non-profit educational organization behind *Sesame Street*, wants to provide "the furry, fuzzy and friendly cheer of our beloved Muppet characters as a measure of extra love and comfort." Army CYSS Services is coordinating preparations at Forts Benning, Bragg, Campbell, Carson, Detrick-Silver Spring (at Walter Reed Army Medical Center), Drum, Hood, Lewis, and Riley. Each Sesame Room will have wall hangings, tables, storage bins, books, and offer posters and stickers for children to take home.

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## **Soldier Programs/Community Recreation**

### **Armed Forces Sports**

The Annual Armed Forces Cross Country Race, part of the National Cross Country Championships, is Feb. 5-8, 2009, in Derwood, MD. Race day is Feb. 7, 2009.

The Annual Armed Forces Men's Soccer Championship is Feb. 1-8, 2009, at Dyess AFB, TX.

The Annual CISM Cont Meeting of the Americas will take place Feb. 9-14, 2009, at the Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen, Puerto Rico. The meeting is to discuss a strategy and develop a sports plan for our continent. This is the first time that U.S. has hosted this meeting.

[www.armedforcesports.com](http://www.armedforcesports.com)

**POC:** Suba Saty, 703-681-7230, [Suba.Satyanarayan@us.army.mil](mailto:Suba.Satyanarayan@us.army.mil)

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### **YMCA Fitness Membership**

A partnership with the YMCA was established Oct. 1, 2008 to provide free fitness facilities to active duty Soldiers at Independent Duty Locations, Family members of deployed National Guard/Reserve Soldiers, and relocated spouses of Active Duty Soldiers on deployment.

FMWRC assumed responsibility as the Army approving official from ASCIM on Jan. 12, 2009. To date, we have approved 212 duty locations equating to 2500 memberships. We have also coordinated conference calls with Accessions Command POCs to provide information regarding this initiative for their 16,000 Soldiers at 11,000 locations.

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### **Inclusion Recreation for Wounded Warriors (IRWW)**

The Community Recreation Directorate and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) MWR Policy Directorate, in conjunction with Pennsylvania State University, is providing 12 IRWW training sessions over the next three years. The IRWW training is a four-day (32 hour) course designed to train recreation programmers and community recreation directors on how to integrate active duty wounded warriors into existing MWR Recreation programs and services. This course focuses on the "real life" needs of Wounded Warriors and their Families and offers personal perspectives by individuals who have experienced psychological and physical disability. The next course is scheduled for Feb. 23-26, 2009.

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### **Playaway Language Audio Books for Afghanistan**

Playaway has obtained rights to "Accent on Afghanistan: Useful Phrases & Vocabulary" for both Dari and Pashto languages. Twenty-five mailing addresses in Afghanistan were identified for the February order that will include five of each title in addition to other fiction and non-fiction titles. This order is at the request of many Soldiers stationed in Afghanistan.

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### **General Library Information System (GLIS)**

Torri Station Library will bring the number of libraries actively using GLIS to 65.

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### **Audio Books for iPods**

The Library Program's "Army Audio eBook Library" on AKO My Library site now has Audio books available for download to iPods.

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### **Army Entertainment Division (AED) Update**

Video auditions for the 2009 Army Soldier Show were conducted Jan. 22, 2009. Eighteen of the 23 applicants that were screened were selected to come in for a live audition Feb. 28 at Wallace Theatre on Fort Belvoir, VA.

The Army Concert Tour is gearing up for the 2009 tour. Current plans are to cover eight installations with indoor venues and five installations with outdoor venues. Watch this report for more information on the 2009 tour.

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### **Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS)**

On Jan, 24, 2009, G-3/5/7 approved a request for the establishment of military requirements for the BOSS program, specifically the BOSS President positions. The original request was for the establishment of 49 positions, of which 48 were approved. These positions are in various locations throughout the Army, and were prioritized based on single Soldier population.

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## **Business Initiatives Group**

Nothing rendered this report.

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## **Facilities Management**

### **Fort Campbell Youth Center Construction Start**

One hundred percent design documents are expected by Jan. 30, 2009, for the new Youth Center at Fort Campbell, KY. A notice to proceed with construction is expected to follow receipt of the design documents and construction is expected to be completed in October, 2009.

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### **K16, Korea - Multipurpose Field**



A pre-construction meeting was held Jan. 15, 2009, signifying construction start-up. The project is scheduled to be completed in September, 2009.

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### **Fort Lewis Bowling Center Renovation**

The Fort Lewis, WA, Bowling Center was renovated to upgrade the concourse, settee area, meeting rooms, pro shop, offices, bar/lounge and back of the house areas. In a separate contract, HVAC and AMF bowling equipment were also upgraded/replaced. A pre-final inspection was held Jan. 22, 2009. After completion of punch-list items and the final move in of furnishings and equipment, a grand opening is planned for March, 2009.

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## **MWR Academy**

### **Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC) Needs Assessment**

SFAC program managers are responsible for managing a facility and leading a multifunctional team that provides service and support to Warriors in Transition (WT) and their Families on Army garrisons.

The FMWR Academy is designing a course for SFAC program managers. The new course, to be held April 6-10, 2009, will train all SFAC program managers to implement an effective SFAC. To design the course, the Academy will conduct a customized occupational profile (COP) with current subject matter experts from various garrisons, the Family and MWR Command, and the National Guard and Reserves to determine the tasks, knowledge, skills, and abilities required to run an effective SFAC. The COP is scheduled for Feb. 11-12, 2009. This will be followed by a needs analysis survey to validate the data from the COP and determine the skill gaps upon which to design a course that will meet the needs of the workforce.

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## **Upcoming Events as of Jan. 30, 2009**

### **February** (Black History Month)

- 1 Fort Campbell Child Development Center Grand Opening (Fort Campbell, KY)
- 9 Fort Sill Child Development Center Grand Opening (Fort Sill, OK)
- 16 Washington's Birthday (Federal Holiday)
- 28 Live Auditions for the Soldier Show (Fort Belvoir, VA)

### **March** (Women's History Month)

- 1 Fort Drum Child Development Center Grand Opening (Fort Drum, NY)
- Redstone Arsenal Child Development Center Grand Opening (Redstone Arsenal, PA)
- 9 Fort Polk Child Development Center Grand Opening (Fort Polk, LA)

### **April** (Sexual Assault Awareness Month/Child Abuse Prevention Month/Month of the Military Child)

1	Fort Lewis Child Development Center Grand Opening (Fort Lewis, WA)
1	Fort Riley Child Development Center Grand Opening (Fort Riley, KS)
6-10	Army G-1 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training Summit (Crystal City, VA)
19-25	Volunteer Week
25	FMWRC Commander Invitational Performance of the Soldier Show (Fort Belvoir, VA)
27-1 May	Association of the U.S. Army Symposium / Multi-Training Functional Conference (Kansas City, MO)

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